

Forget those collectibles, just bring money to Rosemont

By Roger Boye

Baseball cards and other non-monetary collectibles will be unwelcome at the American Numismatic Association's 100th anniversary convention in August in suburban Rosemont.

The ANA Board of Governors deferred action on a proposal that would have allowed hundreds of dealers at the convention to sell such items from a bourse arena to be set up at the O'Hare Exposition Center. As at past ANA conventions, dealers in Rosemont must sell only coins, paper money and other numismatic-related rarities.

More than 15,000 people are expected to attend the six-day

"World's Fair of Money." Some hobbyists fear that the Rosemont convention and other ANA shows would become glorified flea markets if the ANA changed its sales regulations.

Also at a meeting in late February, the ANA board approved a proposal by one of its governors—Chicago broadcast journalist Donn Pearlman—to conduct its board meetings in open session, with some exceptions. The nine-member board approves the budget and sets policy for the 32,000-member organization, which has headquarters in Colorado Springs.

The ANA was founded in Chicago in 1891.



Uncle Sam will be well repre-

sented at the American Numismatic Association centennial convention in Rosemont, with exhibits by the U.S. Mint and the U.S. Secret Service, as well as five displays by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing complemented by demonstrations of the bureau's "Spider Press."

At a meeting in Chicago earlier this month, ANA Executive Director Robert J. Leuver and other organizers said the Aug. 13-18 fair will include:

- A 550-dealer bourse, largest in ANA convention history.
- At least 70 hours of free educational programs.
- Nearly 30 exhibits in a "convention midway," some with hands-on displays.
- Hundreds of competitive

exhibits.

● A "World Series of Numismatics," with many of the hobby's most distinguished pros vying in a question-answer forum patterned after the television game show "Jeopardy."

● First-day-of-issue cancellations of a commemorative postage stamp honoring numismatics.

● A free coin identification and authentication service run by the ANA.

More than half the hotel rooms reserved for the conven-

tion already have been rented, suggesting that thousands will attend from out-of-state.



PandaAmerica is charging \$595 for a proof Australian coin depicting a koala and made with one-half ounce of platinum. A five-coin koala proof set—containing 1990-dated platinum coins ranging from one ounce to .05 ounce—costs \$1,995. To order, call, toll-free, (1-800) 472-6327. PandaAmerica is the official North American distributor of the proof platinum coins, which are made in limited quantities.